

# Mingo County Famous As Fighting Ground

Williamson, W. Va., Jan. 2.—Since the early days when the first settlers from Virginia fought their way to the Western country against bands of hostile Indians, Mingo county, W. Va., and Pike county, Ky., just across its border, have been almost continuous battle grounds.

Mingo county's latest struggle is between the coal operators and the miners, but after a series of outbreaks which attracted country-wide attention, Federal troops are maintaining order.

After the early settlers had disposed of the Indians, the moonshiners took the field and for years fought and sometimes vanquished the hated revenue agents, protected as they often were against attack in the high hills and deep valleys that cover this section. Then came the famous Hatfield-McCoy feud of the '80s and '90s, which resulted in the practical wiping out of the McCoy family, and which caused two state Governors to take a hand in its suppression.

For some years after the feud the moonshiners again took the field and, although prohibition is now a law of the land, the "making of liquor" has never been given up in these hills entirely.

Still another chapter of blood was written in Mingo when efforts were made this year to organize the coal miners. An unhappy climax came about in Matewan, W. Va., on May 15, 1920, when in a fight in the streets 10 men were killed, 7 of whom were guards of a private detective agency, sent into the district to eject union miners from company homes.

Since the Matewan fight Mingo has been the scene of other disorders, and railroad mining properties have been destroyed by explosives. Intermittent warfare between operators' guards and miners and their sympathizers followed in such proportions that recently Governor Cornwell, of West Virginia, called on the Federal Government for troops. When a provisional battalion was sent to Mingo martial law was declared here and several other towns and villages.

In the clashes in Mingo the names Hatfield and McCoy have figured prominently. In the Matewan fight Chief of Police Hatfield took part and later was indicted for murder. His trial is pending. In the week following a McCoy on a lonely mountain road was wounded by an unidentified assailant.

These fights have caused old settlers to hark back to the day when the Hatfield clan, following the killing of one of their brethren, under the leadership of "Devil Anse" Hatfield, swore what was known as the "Black Oath." The story is told that 20 members of the clan, kneeling around a camp fire in the hills of Mingo county, pledged themselves to the absolute destruction of the McCoy family.

As a result men, women and children of the enemy clan found no mercy, and the feud became known far and wide as one of the bloodiest in the history of the mountains.

Strange to say, three of the detective guards who were killed in the Matewan fight this year were descendants of state guards and officers who were sent into Mingo in the early nineties to put down the feud.

With the Federal troops in the section, the county, for the first time in many years apparently is in a fair way to obtain peace and calm.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

## YATESVILLE

Greetings to the good old NEWS and sincerest wishes for its continued success throughout 1921 and all successive years.

School at this place closes on the 7th. We are expecting a winter school to be taught here by Edgar Riffe and are anticipating a successful term, as Mr. Riffe has a fine reputation as a teacher.

Mrs. Cora Kirk, of Ashland, and her daughter, Miss Lucille, are visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Atkins.

Miss Gipsy Blankenship accompanied by her sister, Miss Grace and Miss Kizze Ramsey went to Louisa Sunday preparatory to attending the K. N. C.

Miss Mary Pritchard, of Dennis, was at R. Blankenship's last week to see her sister, Mrs. Worth Blankenship, who was visiting there.

The Christmas tree was a great success under the very able directions of Edgar Riffe, who has the appreciation of the community, especially the children for the enjoyable affair.

## BECKY.

"I WILL" FOR 1921.  
I will start anew this morning with a higher, fairer creed;  
I will cease to sit repining o'er my ruthless neighbor's greed;  
I will cease to sit repining while my duty's call is clear;  
I will waste no moment whining, and my heart shall know no fear.

I will look sometimes about me for the things that merit praise;  
I will search for hidden beauties that elude the grumbler's gaze;  
I will try to find contentment in the paths that I must tread;  
I will cease to have resentment when another moves ahead.

I will not be swayed by envy when my rival's strength is shown;  
I will not deny his merit, but I'll strive to prove my own;  
I will try to see the beauty spread before me, rain or shine;  
I will cease to preach your duty, and be more concerned with mine.

—British Weekly.

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## Exports Via New York Decrease; Imports Increase

New York.—Domestic exports valued at \$8,119,580,884 flowed through the port of New York during last year. During the same period imports valued at \$2,933,354,471 arrived in this port for distribution over the United States.

A comparison of the figures of 1919 shows that the export trade decreased approximately \$21,000,000 while the import trade increased about \$38,000,000.

Foreign exports, which reached the total of \$117,975,916 in 1919, were shaded down to \$81,965,715 during last year.

## Price of Standard Pipe Cut \$7.00 Per Ton

Youngstown, Ohio.—Republic Iron & Steel Company announces a reduction in price of standard pipe of \$7 a ton, to the Steel Corporation level. Aside from pipe business, few new steel orders are coming into the valley, and prospects of additional suspensions and curtailments are likely.

Trumbull Steel Company has laid off hundreds of workers during the last week and has abolished many salaried positions. Sheet mills in the Mahoning Valley are operating at the rate of 20 per cent, while ingot production is around 40 per cent for the independents.

## Decrease in Oil Runs Reported

Frankfort, December 31.—Unless there is a speedy increase in the production of oil in Kentucky during the first six months of the year of 1921 the indications are that there will be a decline in the production of oil in this state for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1921, as compared to the oil production for the year ending June 30, 1920. There are 250,000 bbls of oil fewer produced from July 1, this year, to January 1, 1921, than there were during the corresponding time last year. This falling off, however, is in a measure offset by the increase production of 154,000 bbls of oil for the first six months of the year, compared with the same period last year.

Lima, Ohio, December 31.—A decline in runs is already noted from the decrease of purchasing companies to take only 50 and 70 per cent of the oil, and production of the midcontinent.

## THE FINANCIAL RECORD OF 1920

New York, Jan. 2.—If the financial markets ever witnessed a more interesting state of affairs at the close of a trying year the oldest Wall street habitue cannot recall it. The year just closed will be remembered chiefly for its constant credit strain, which at times became so serious as to threaten a money market disturbance of first magnitude, and which unquestionably would have developed but for the splendid safeguards of the Federal reserve system.

The 1920 money market, taking all classes of loans, probably averaged higher rates than any other 12 months in peace times. In the United States as in Europe, this was the overshadowing factor, for the credit strain was such as to force the Federal Reserve Board to put the country under a system of rationed credit during the greater part of the year. This caused irritation in some quarters, but those in touch with the facts of that extraordinary year know now that these measures were necessary, and that the supervision for the most part was highly intelligent, constructive and saved the December markets from a terrific smash.

A restricted credit policy for the United States of 1920 was just as necessary as was the effort to curtail food consumption during the war period. If limited food consumption was necessary to help the nation win the war in 1917 a properly regulated credit service which financed productive industry ahead of everything else was necessary in order to save this nation from a succession of Black Fridays in 1920. This is literally true, for the world-wide strain upon credits was greater than the banks of this country, or any other country ever experienced before over so great an area and for such a length of time.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

## NORIS

Since the last issue of the paper there has been some very good meetings here.

It seems as the Satan has been cut loose from Blaine. There have been several conversions and church is yet going on. We hope that the rest of the people who are out of Christ will come to Him before the meetings close. The baptizing at this place was largely attended Saturday and Sunday.

Bros. Murphy and Rice were here Saturday and Sunday. Hubert Moore and Graydon Thompson were calling on their best girls at Albert McKinster's Sunday evening.

Dewey Estep was calling on Sella Thompson Sunday. Wm. Dixon and family took dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Estep Sunday.

Mrs. Martha Beck of Griffith creek, who has been visiting here for some time has returned home.

Everette Ball paid home folks a visit Saturday and Sunday. Graydon and George McGranahan of Louisa were on our creek Saturday.

H. B. Thompson is seriously ill at this writing. Edna Mayo was calling on Roxie Estep Sunday afternoon. Byrd Thompson was calling on Opal Miller Sunday night.

L. B. Hays of Ledocia was here Sunday. John Ball and family spent Sunday with Mont Thompson and family. Ogal Childrens spent Thursday night with his uncle, Lewis Thompson. Mabel Murphy of Thealka will visit friends here soon. Remember the prayer meeting at this place. AUNT PEGGY.

## A Republican Tribute to Woodrow Wilson

William Allen White, noted Republican editor of the Emporia (Kan.) Gazette pays the following tribute to Woodrow Wilson:

"There can be no doubt that the verdict of history on President Wilson will affirm his greatness. In great moments of crisis during the last eight years President Wilson has risen to real heights and has done worthy and memorable things. His name will stand in history either as the sponsor of a great hope or the recorder of a high tide in human affairs from which impotent humanity has recoiled.

"He, first of all world statesmen at the end of a ghastly world catastrophe, tried to make a settlement based upon justice, not on force, upon what should be rather than what could be. Either the League of Nations will rise during this century and work for peace on earth and good will among men, or it will fail, and in its failure will herald in such an epoch of horror that humanly in its decay will look back to the glorious dream which this man dreamed as the beginning of the wreck of nations and crash of civilization.

"In either event Wilson's name is safe. He aspired greatly; he strove with what strength he had, and with what weapons God gave him. He lost; his powers were not sufficient for his task. His hand was not as strong as his heart. He called the spirits from the vasty deep; but alas, they did not come. His loss is mankind's loss. But even if he lost, he lost, but losing, won. He is not the first Moses left in the wilderness, even though he stood by the burning bush; nor the first Isaiah to preach righteousness vainly to a wicked and perverse generation."

A man of the President's own party, an idolatrous follower, could have been no more magnanimous than this author and journalist who writes with an intimate knowledge of his subject.

## Burley Tobacco Growers on Watch of Market

Lexington, Ky.—Burley tobacco grower officials of the association will watch the market which opened Monday, and it was announced if prices do not average up to the estimated cost of production, 35 cents a pound, the cooperative recently authorized will be incorporated and take charge. A meeting of national and county officials will be held here finally to decide what action will be taken.

The market this year opens one month later than usual, due to the fact that the United States Department of Agriculture and state officials were asked to make a separate estimate of the burley crop.

## Soldier is Fired on in Mingo Strike Area

Williamson, W. Va., Dec. 31.—A corporal of the United States army, carrying mail from Thacker station, Thacker, W. Va., late today was fired on by unidentified persons, according to reports received at military headquarters tonight. As soon as the report of the shooting was received, Col. Lewman H. H. command of the provisional battalion in the Mingo coal strike district, rushed an additional patrol to Thacker.

## 100 PASTORS PRODUCED BY LITTLE KENTUCKY CHURCH

Bethel Ridge, Ky.—The little Methodist church here, its chapel seating a scant 250 persons, bears the unique distinction of having produced more than 100 Methodist ministers, according to the Rev. Ollie G. Ragan, superintendent of the Southeastern District of the Kentucky Methodist conference.

Most of the ministers were members of two families, the Ragans and Godbeys. The story of the little Casey county chapel and the family of ministers, for the Ragans and Godbeys are closely related, goes back 150 years, according to the superintendent. At that time John Han was the Methodist circuit rider of the mountains.

An Irish family named Ragan lived in the Kentucky hills far from any church. The Rev. Han was called when the only child of the family died. The parents become such friends of the itinerant minister that they joined the nearest church and later children were educated in it and became ministers. From that time until the present their descendants have devoted their lives to the ministry, according to Mr. Ragan.

Among the notable ministers of the two families, virtually all of whom first attended church at Bethel Ridge, were the Rev. W. B. Godbey, noted in the mountains as a holiness leader; the Rev. W. H. Ragan, the Rev. G. G. Ragan, his son, J. G. Ragan, for forty years a mountain preacher, and the Rev. L. R. Godbey. The Rev. J. G. Ragan had four sons, all of whom became ministers, and one daughter, who married a minister, the Rev. William Oakley. The sons of J. G. Ragan, all of whom are living are: the Rev. W. B. Ragan, the Rev. J. S. Ragan, Ollie G. Ragan, and the Rev. W. H. Ragan. Other members of the family in the ministry include the late Rev. W. B. Godbey and the Rev. Logan Godbey.—Courier-Journal.

## USE OF NARCOTICS REDUCED.

Lexington, Ky.—The number of narcotic addicts in Kentucky has been reduced nearly 75 per cent in the past five years, according to Dr. W. S. Fish, Narcotic Inspector for the Eastern section of the state, who declared today that the State Board of Health had failed to co-operate to the fullest extent with the Government's efforts.

Dr. Fish cited the case of two physicians who specialize in treatment of addicts, who, according to Government records, five years ago had 111 drug patients under their care and this year have only four such patients. Dr. Fish said that five practicing physicians in the state had been cured of the drug habit within the past four months.

After January 1, 1921, all persons to whom drugs are necessary must be registered with the Government, Dr. Fish said. Approximately 200 violations of the narcotics act have been reported in this territory.

# Crude Oil and Its Outlook Now the Problem

## Huntington Girl Kills Deer in North Carolina

Honors of a deer hunt in the North Carolina mountains where a party of Huntingtontians spent ten days during the Christmas season, were carried off by Miss Ruth Hagan, 17-year-old daughter of E. Hugh Hagan. Miss Hagan bagged the only deer of the hunt. The headquarters were brought to Huntington by the party Saturday night and there was venison for dinner at the Hagan home yesterday and also at the home of C. F. Millender, 601 Tenth avenue.

The hunting party was composed of Mr. Millender, his daughters, Helen and Louise and his sons, Alfred and Joe. The hunt was conducted on Mr. Millender's estate in North Carolina. A number of deer were started but Miss Hagan was the only one lucky enough to get in a telling shot. She saw the animal, a doe, as it was making through a swamp. She had to run about a hundred yards to get to a point where she could shoot effectively. She used a double-barrel gun, carrying buckshot. The first barrel dropped the doe, but, taking no chances, she fired again.

An interesting circumstance in regard to the kill was that a veteran deer hunter was concealed nearby and had decided to shoot when the deer came two jumps closer. He was greatly surprised, he told Mr. Millender, when Miss Hagan's shot dropped the game. He had no idea of the presence of anyone else on the edge of the marsh.

The head and hide of the doe have been sent to a taxidermist, the former for mounting and the latter for tanning. The Huntington party spent a few days on the coast duck shooting, and Miss Hagan, who had quite a reputation for marksmanship also bagged much of the game there.—Huntington Herald-Dispatch.

## IRAD

We gladly welcomed the New Year Saturday with its sunny weather.

Mrs. Laura Chaffin and children were calling on Mrs. Clay Dean Sunday.

Sorry to hear of the illness of Mrs. Tom Large. Carl Curmutte's smiling face was seen at Irad Saturday.

Sam Derifield of Ironton, was visiting relatives here last week. Charlie Holbrook will leave soon for Madison, W. Va.

Sam Ferrel was calling on friends on Daniels Creek Sunday. Jettie L. Holbrook was shopping at Irad Saturday.

Miss Lillian Burton was calling on Edna Dean Saturday evening. George Burchett was visiting Sam Ferrel Saturday.

Jettie Holbrook contemplates a visit to Grayson soon. Carl Curmutte thinks there is no place like Little Blaine. Misses Jettie Holbrook and Jettie Ferrel were the pleasant guests of Edna Dean Sunday.

Jim Frasure was on our creek Wednesday. Mrs. G. V. Burton spent Saturday evening with Mrs. R. M. Dean. Mrs. Jennie Carter was the week-end guest of her sister, Mrs. Frank Evans. THREE CRAZY GIRLS.

Barbourville, Ky., Jan. 2.—The crude oil market is giving operators some concern. While there has been no change in quotations of the Cumberland Pipe Line Company, the Standard subsidiary which handles the greater part of Kentucky's production, it is said that some of the independent purchasers in Western Kentucky have made cuts. Production in that field is handled by half a dozen concerns, which have all along paid the same price as that commanded by Eastern Kentucky crude, \$4.25 to \$4.50 per barrel.

In field work there have been a number of worth-while strikes in the oil areas of Lee, Estill and Wolfe.

In the Big Sandy district there will be a shut-down by some operators until the worst of the winter is over. In the mountain districts of that field transportation of machinery from one lease to another presents the most difficult problem. In the Lawrence County Oil Company and Carter Oil Company will do no further drilling until better weather. The Johnson-Magoffin district is showing some activity, with completions each week in the five to twenty-barrel class.

Lima, Ohio, Jan. 2.—A cut in the Corning grade of crude oil goes to bear out the general impression among oil producers that it will not be surprising that the new year finds a decline in various grades over the country. At the same time, refiners at Louisville, Ky., cut 25 cents a barrel from the various grades of the Western Kentucky field, bringing this rate down to 3.75 a barrel. In none of these cases is a barometer established for the big fields of the country.

It must be remembered that this is a season when production exceeds consumption; and that at present prices, few pipe companies or purchasing agencies desire to store oil. The period for the accumulation of oil into steel tanks is similar to the period of accumulation in the stock market and always occurs at the time of big fields and low prices. The present situation is much different. While production in the Mid-continent is today in excess of demand of the season, it is not in excess of the usual demand for an entire year.

In other words, the drastic order of the pipe lines of the Midcontinent whereby they agree to accept only 50 per cent and 75 per cent of production, just about cares for the present demand. They do not care to take this other 50 per cent or 25 per cent and hold it in storage at the present prices, until demand resumes in the spring. It is not a question of not wanting oil; neither is it a question of their being too much oil, for it was not until late this fall that production overtook demand for crude of gasoline content.

"Rat-Snap Beats the Best Trap Ever Made," Mrs. Emily Shaw Says.

"My husband bought \$2 trap. I bought a 55c box of RAT-SNAP. The trap only caught 3 rats but RAT-SNAP killed 12 in a week. I'm never without RAT-SNAP. Reckon I could raise chicks without it." RAT-SNAP comes in cakes. Three sizes, 35c, 65c, \$1.25. Sold and guaranteed by Louisa Drug Co., Louisa, L. F. Wellman, R. T. Berry & Son, Blaine, Frank Frasher, Fort Gay, W. Va.

## THE LOUISVILLE

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